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# HYMN - TUNES, JUL 19 1932

JUL 19 1932

JUL 19 1932

sung in the Church

## UNITED BRETHREN,

Chr. Ign. La Trobe.

London Printed for the Editor, by J. Bland . 15 Holborn .

## PREFACE.

HE following Tunes are chiefly extracted from the Collection published by the Rev. C. Gregor, in Germany, entitled Choral Buch enthaltend alle zu dem Gesangbuche der Evangelischen Brüdergemeinen vom Jahre 1778, gehörige Melodien; Leipzig, 1784; which may easily be referred to, as I have retained the same numbers. Some tunes peculiar to our English hymns are added; and as several new metres have been introduced into the Hymn-Book published in 1789, I have endeavoured to supply the Tunes wanted according to my best abilities. As some who wish to make use of this Collection, may not have sufficient opportunity for studying thorough-bass, I have placed the plainest accompaniment in small dots under the treble, which may serve as a guide. But I submit both this part of the performance and the new compositions to the judgment of able performers and singers, leaving them to substitute whatever they may find more proper.

The titles of the Tunes are chiefly the first line of the first hymn of each metre in the above-mentioned Hymn-book. Some tunes are inserted both on account of their intrinsic merit, and their being in frequent use in our congregations abroad, though not at present sung amongst us here.

The Rev. Mr. Gregor observes in the preface to his Tune-book, "that in the earliest ages of the church of the Brethren, the practice of singing hymns has been in high estimation; and that to this present day, a great part of their daily worship consists in singing. Nothing," he adds, "is more a "calculated"

"calculated to impress the mind with devotion, than to hear a congregation engaged in the worship of the Lord, singing and making melody unto him—instrumental music, and especially the organ, uniting with and supporting the voices of the people. Whoever has heard it, and experienced the truth of this affertion, cannot but wish, that this gift of God bestowed upon us, and so conducive to general edification, may be preserved without diminution in all our congregations; and that, scattered as we are in all parts of the world, we may nevertheless, in this part of our worship also, be perfectly uniform."

I have therefore never deviated from the original (though fome of our congregations in England have adopted a few peculiarities) with a view that this pleafing uniformity may likewife be established amongst us.—The introduction of new Tunes is however by no means excluded. Some metres have the advantage of a variety of Tunes, adapted to the sense of the hymns for which they were composed; and it would be well, if every metre had the same. If any able Composer therefore, would furnish this variety, a valuable and useful appendix to the present collection might be formed.

By introducing here some observations concerning the practice of singing, and chiefly of instrumental music in the church, I hope not to trespass upon the reader's patience too long. As to singing, I beg leave to quote again part of Mr. Gregor's Preface:

"The excellence of congregational finging confifts in this,—that though all join, yet none feek to outvie the rest. By bringing each voice to the level of the whole, a sweet and yet powerful confluence of harmony is created. But whoever leads the song, should sing so distinctly, that the words of the hymn may be heard, which cannot be expected from the whole congregation,—nor could well be effected without prejudice to good singing. Both the minister and the congregation should likewise take due notice of the contents of the hymn or verse to be sung, and regulate the chearfulness or solemnity of their voices accordingly. Whenever one metre has several Tunes, attention ought to be paid in the choice

" of them, that the strain of the Tune may be suited to the sense of the hymn. Tunes, that have hitherto " been unknown to the congregation, may be introduced, either by being at first repeatedly sung by the " choir, or played previous to the opening of the service in lieu of the usual prelude, by which the con-" gregation becomes infenfibly acquainted with them."—Thus far the Rev. Mr. Gregor.

However, notwithstanding these and many other valuable rules for singing (too numerous to be inserted here) the natural imbecillity of the human voice is fuch, that few can keep to the pitch in which a tune is begun, especially in long hymns, or a succession of many verses. Consequently the congregation, as experience shews, is gradually finking its voice, yea, the voice of each individual finks in a different degree, so that the longer the finging lasts, the more grievous the dissonance is rendered. To remedy this imperfection a support is wanting, calculated to give the singing that sirmness, so indispensably necessary towards producing the above-mentioned pleafing effect. This support is justly expected from the affistance of instrumental music, -for the sirmest and most powerful voice of the Precentor is borne down by the weight of the finking multitude. Instrumental music, therefore, if thus applied, being not improper in the house of God, (having been once appointed, and never forbidden) organs were introduced into the church, and are undoubtedly of all other inftruments best adapted to answer the above purpose. But in order to obtain the true and beneficial effect of an organ, it is required, that the organist should enter into the spirit of his office, and become actuated by the same principle that every other servant in the house of GoD is taught to act from. Without this, he not only neglects his call, but betrays his trust. There is scarcely a person in the church, who more easily exposes his inattention and want of true devotion, than the organist; nor is it to be wondered at, that fincere and devout people, for want of discernment, or not seeing an amendment easily effected, conceive a musical instrument improper in the church, because they have never heard it properly used.

But we should not merely stop and lament that musicin general has shared the same fate with other precious gifts of God bestowed upon man, and that with them it has been forced into the service of iniquity, and

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led to act as an incentive to vice;—we should rather endeavour to restore it to its primitive and sacred use, and, as a grateful return to the Giver of all good gifts, employ this noble talent in his service.

The Brethren, as far as their feeble efforts would go, have taken pains to effect this among themfelves. All that learn this science in their schools, are taught to consider the practice thereof, whether vocal or instrumental, as leading to the same grand point, in which all other parts of learning ought to center, namely, in the service of the LORD, and the promotion of his glory on earth. In the earliest period of their establishment, they endeavoured to render their manner of singing conformable to the solemnity that pervades a congregation, met in the presence of God to pour out their hearts before him, either in prayer and praise, or in the contemplation of the great proofs of his goodness towards them, a due sense of which will always preclude thoughtless vociferation, vain emulation, and levity of air. They introduced instrumental music with a view to render the voice of the congregation more steady and pleasing, and the performers being impressed with the same awful sense of the presence of God, and the importance of their fervice in his house, considered it utterly inconsistent to gratify their own vanity, and draw the attention of the congregation towards them, by an ill-timed display of their fancy. This example we all wish to follow.

Every musician, possessed of sound musical taste and judgment, will readily acknowledge, that simplicity is a grand source of beauty in church-music; and yet superior genius seems required to be conscious of its powers and willing to follow its dictates; such is the prevalence of depravity. But there is still something of far greater importance than our taste and judgment that determines the real degree of excellence in church-music: this is nothing less than the blessing of God conveyed unto us through the means he deigns to employ. If, when we sing unto Him, we feel his divine presence with us, hearing our prayers, accepting our praises, and that our hearts are enlivened and comforted by the contemplation of his mercies, then, and not otherwise, both singing and playing become sanctified unto us; and Tunes that appear perhaps to have but little musical merit to gratify the cravings of a fastidious appetite, will convey the purest and most devout

devout fensations to the hearts of the hearers; yea even, when only repeated upon an instrument, will recall to their minds an after taste of the blessings conveyed unto them by the words of the hymns to which they are adapted. An organist duly impressed with this idea, would think himself highly blameable if by the interspersion of his often very heterogeneous decorations he should destroy this great design. He will even by the whole tenor of his presude, suited to the solemnity of the occasion, endeavour to prepare the minds of the assembly for the ensuing service, carefully avoiding every strain that might produce a contrary effect. Such an organist, possessed but of sew powers as to execution, can be of more real service to the church of Christ, than the most skilful professor destitute of the above principles. But it is needless to add any thing more upon a subject so well and generally understood, as the value of music determined by the ideas, suggested by the use to which it is applied, for wherever music exists, mankind is not ignorant of it.

The tunes of the hymns of the Brethren are mostly antient, the greater part being common to them and other protestant churches. They ought to be sung and played in their native simplicity, many of them having attained to too great an age, to appear to any advantage in a new-fashioned dress. Others are of later date, yet little deviating from the style and simplicity of the former. The peculiarities of the liturgy of the Brethren, require that the following remarks should be attended to; which I trust will agree with the experience of our organists:

I. It is needful that the organist should be able to play the hymn Tunes in most if not all the different keys extempore, because upon many occasions the verses sung by the minister, according to his own choice, are taken from a variety of hymns, and it would be next to impossible to turn continually to the Tune-book, without detriment to the singing; especially as such single verses are seldom given out. This latter circumstance requires

- II. That he should be acquainted with most if not all the hymns in the hymn-book,—that upon their being given out, or sung without previous notice, he may affist a weak singer, by pitching immediately upon the right tune in a *proper* key, if left to his choice, or in the key the singer himself pitches upon.
- III. In case the organist is not able to follow the singer easily in difficult keys, for instance, in  $C^*$  or  $F^*$  and must seek an easier, he should never ascend, but always descend half a tone,—viz. from  $C^*$  to C—from  $F^*$  to F as the congregation will more naturally fall in with him by lowering its voice.
- IV. The usual interludes between the lines should be short, and suited to the contents of the hymn sung, leading gently and insensibly into the succeeding line.
- V. If in any hymn two lines are so connected together, that the usual pause between them would injure the sense, the interlude should not hinder the singer from proceeding without delay.
- VI. The organist cannot be too attentive to the finger and the congregation, not every verse being fung according to strict time, but according to the gravity or chearfulness of its contents, especially in accompanying a single voice, which should be left at large to vary the time as occasion requires, particularly in chaunting. For this purpose,
- VII. The organ should never overpower the voices, neither in accompanying an individual, the chorus, nor the whole congregation, but yet have sufficient strength of sound to prevent their sinking. If the congregation consists of a mixed multitude, neither accustomed to moderate their voices, nor acquainted with our Tunes, then the organ ought to be played loud enough to be heard by all distinctly, even by the most vociferous, which may be the more safely done, as on such occasions the hymn is always given out.

VIII. That

VIII. The louder the organ is played, the greater simplicity is required; and it is a great mistake to suppose, that a chearful and majestic Tune acquires any additional brilliancy by a number of shakes, and other graces very ill fuited to the character of Hymn Tunes, and undermining the very effect the player wishes to produce.

IX. There are generally some in the congregation that sing a kind of second or bass to the Tunes. The

or in the like inflances. If he even justly prefers a bass, different from that marked in the Tune Book, yet he should sacrifice his opinion to the prevailing custom, if not utterly false, and even then be cautious and gentle in leading into the right track. But in accompanying a fingle voice, or playing the Tunes before or after the fervice, this caution is not fo necessary.

X. To be able to play a voluntary, is by no means an effential part of the qualifications of an Organist among the Brethren. The congregation will always prefer hearing Hymn Tunes played in its stead, which befides affording a great variety, have a pleafing and edifying effect. If a voluntary is played—all incongruities should be avoided, and the audience, not even undefignedly, be led from the aim of their meeting to attend either with admiration or displeasure to the dexterity of the organist's fingers, or rather to the levity of his mind.

I hope it will not appear prefumptuous in me to recommend these observations earnestly to the consideration of all, and especially of our young performers.

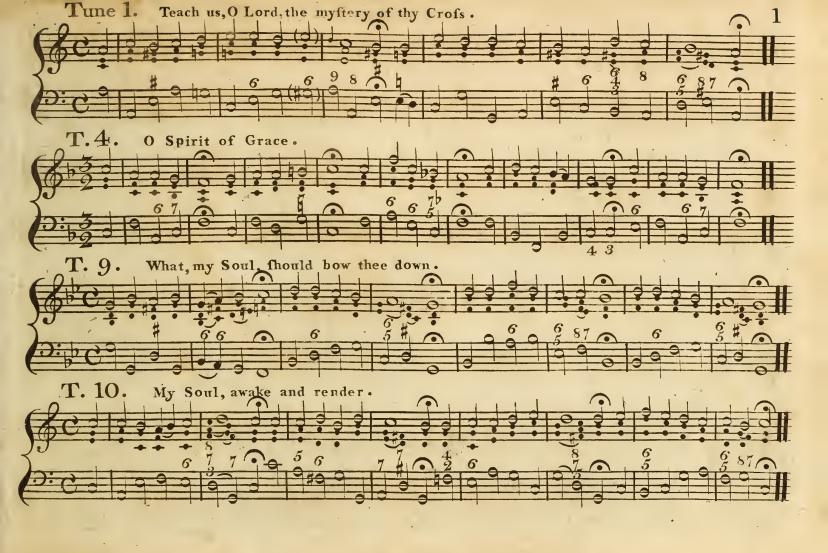
Difficult as the task may appear, yet by patience and attentive practice, the performance will acquire that ease that is so indispensably necessary for the comfort of both organist and congregation. Though practice at home is useful, and must naturally precede, yet without the opportunity of accompanying

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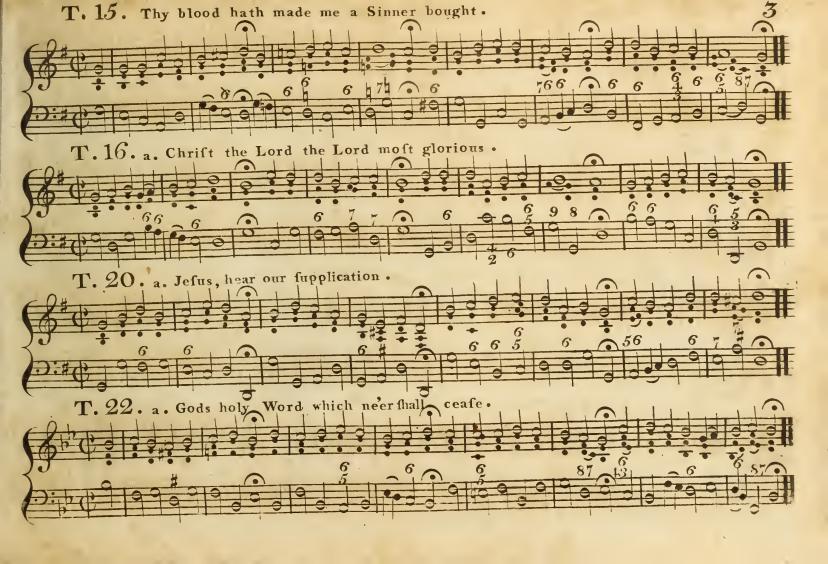
the congregation itself, the best player will always remain at a loss. The variety of our meetings afford the best opportunities for young practitioners to come forward, and to be insensibly led into every one of the above requisites; and as with us this service is voluntary, our young organists claim the candor and kind indulgence of their audience with the greater confidence.

May the joyful hope, that we ere long shall join in the song of the redeemed in heaven, inspire our liturgy here below with all that humble servor and devout animation which becomes a firm conviction that our present and suture happiness was procured by the death of the Lamb of God, who was slain, and has redeemed us to God by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;—to whom be blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, for ever and ever. Amen!

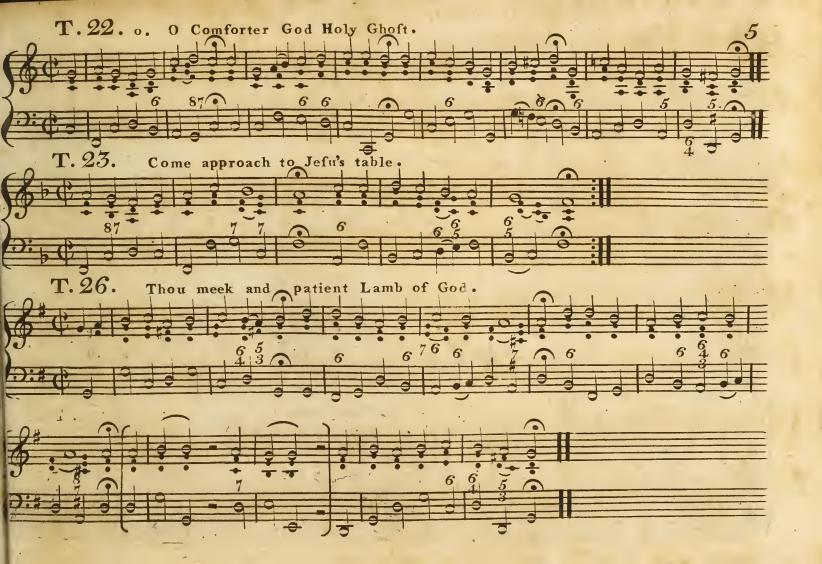
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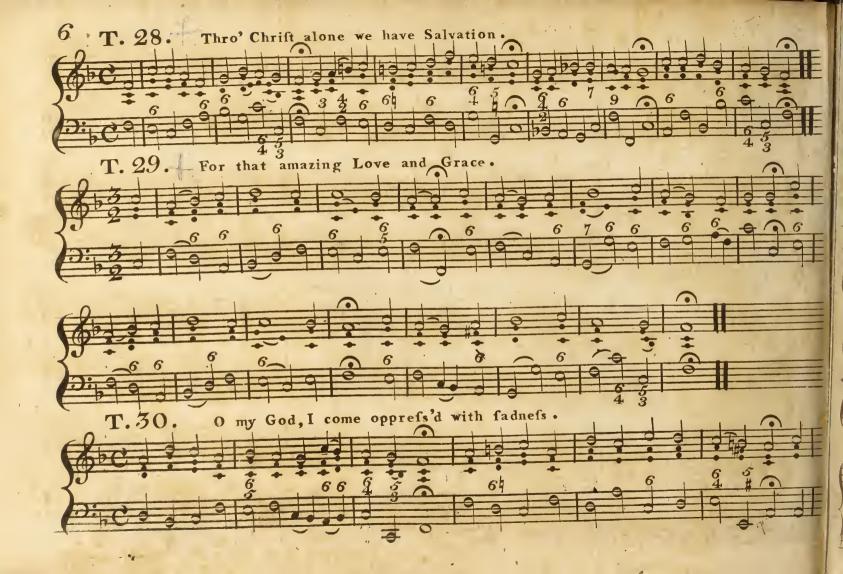


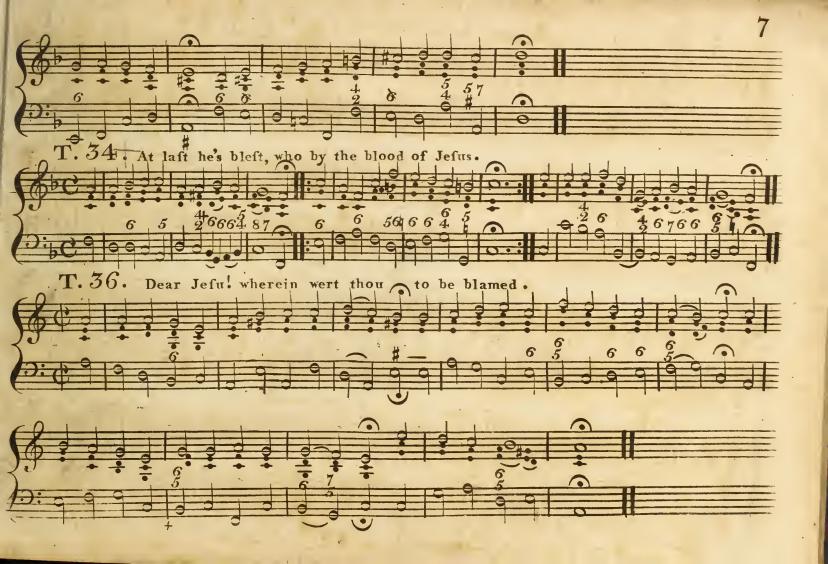


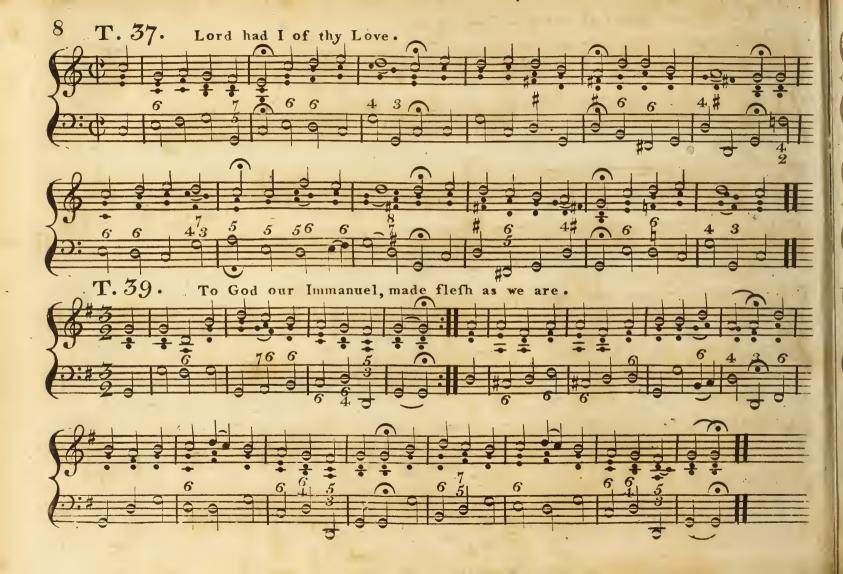


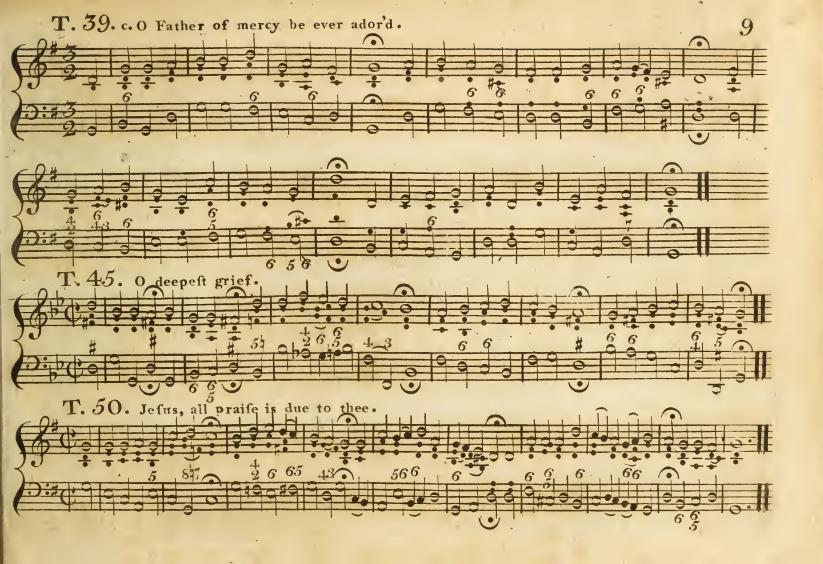


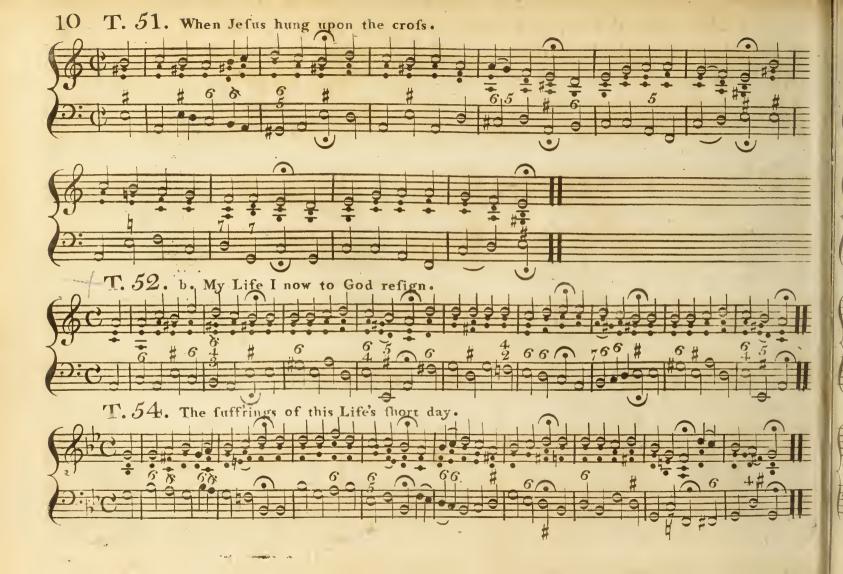


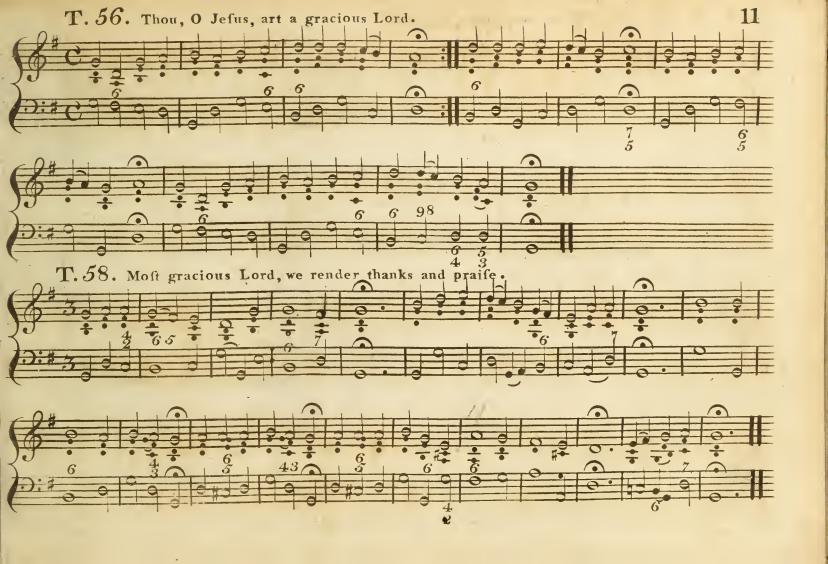








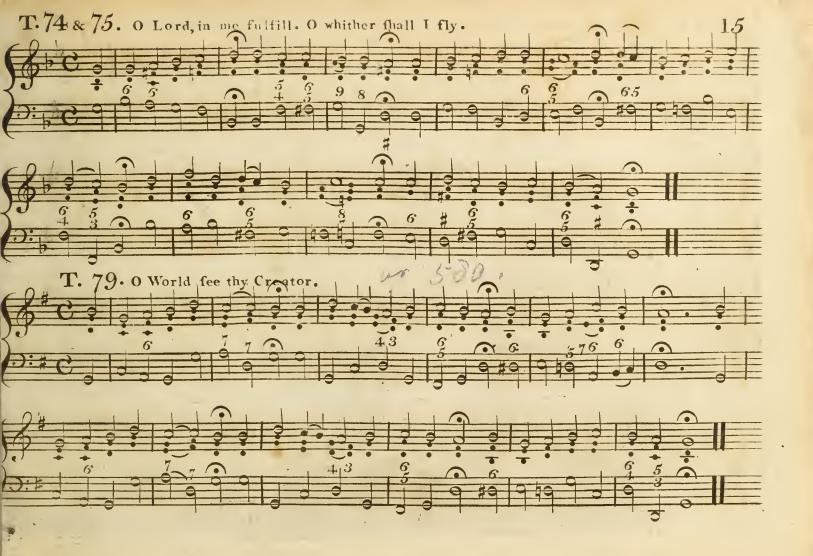




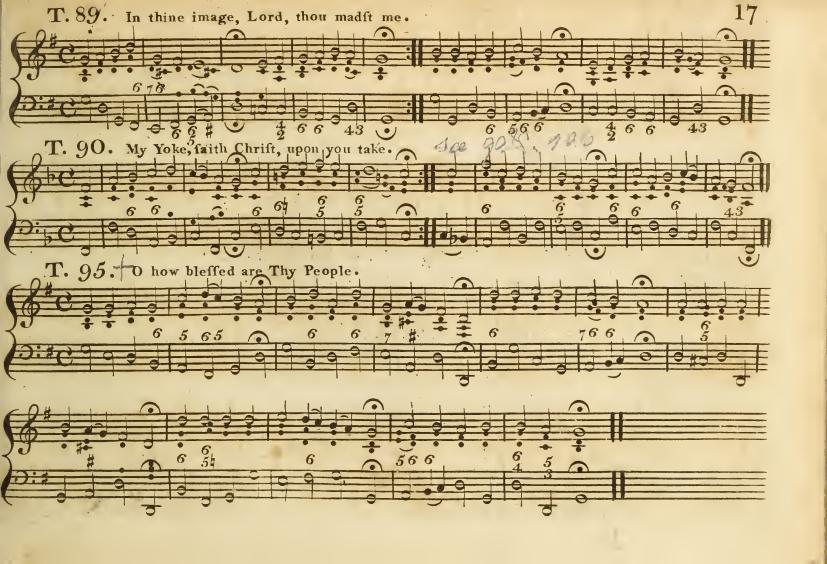


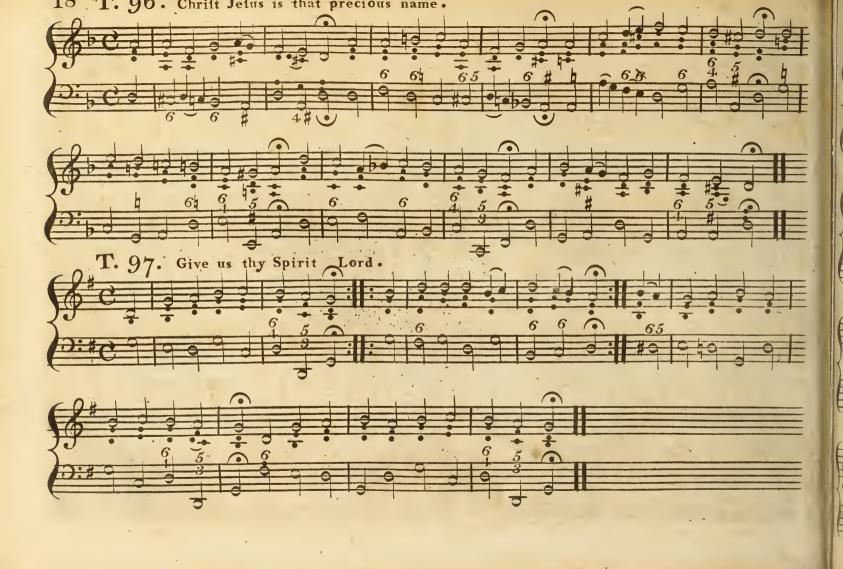


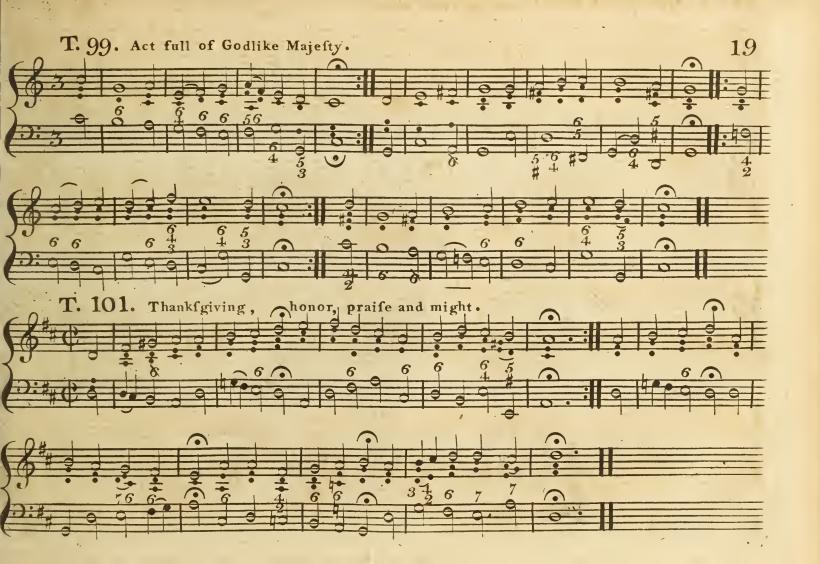


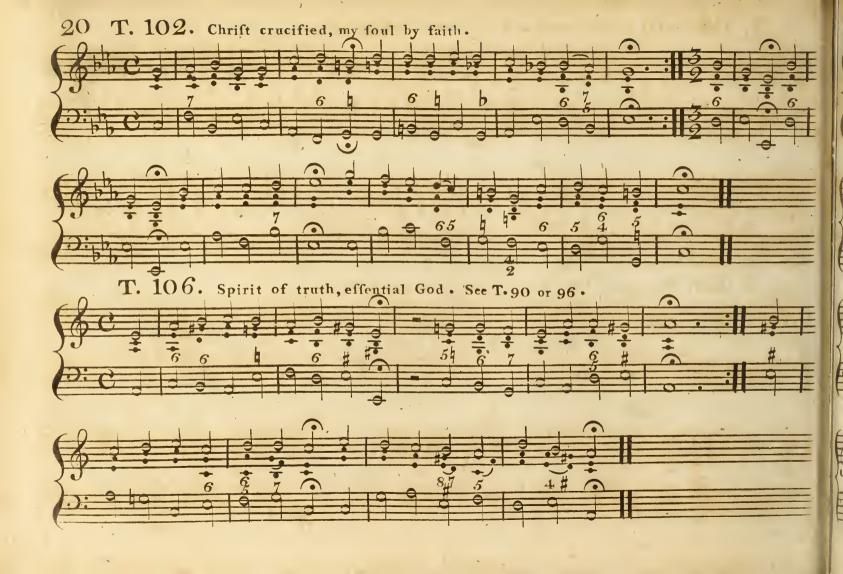


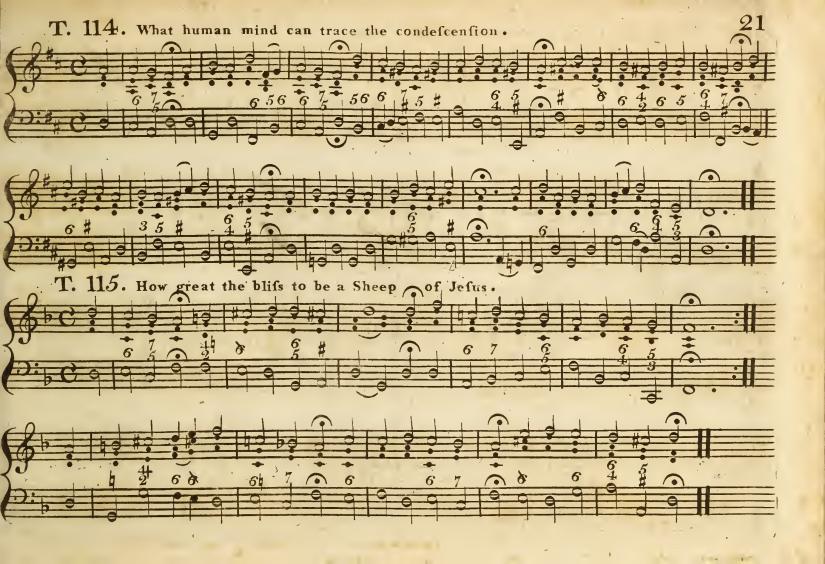






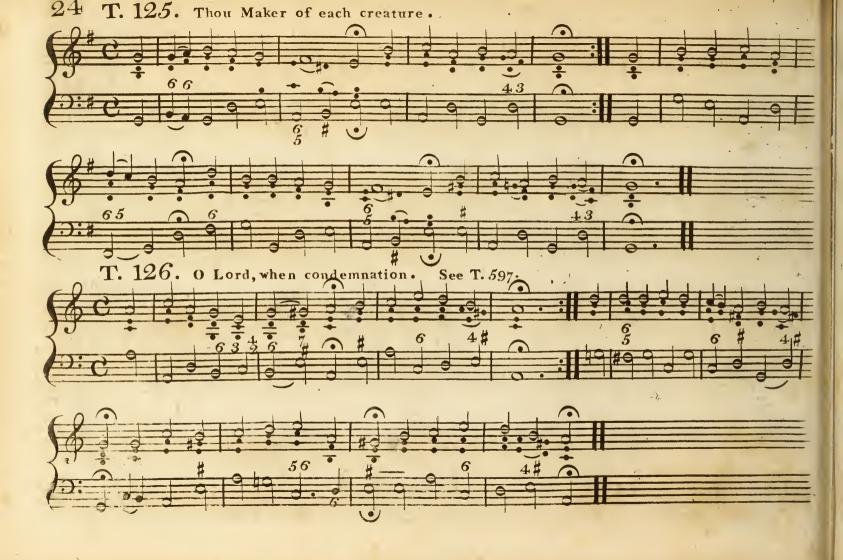


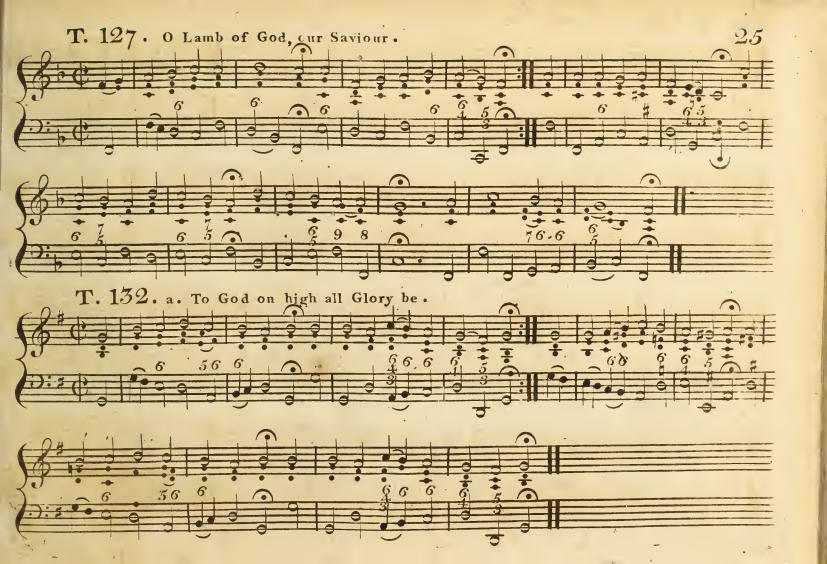




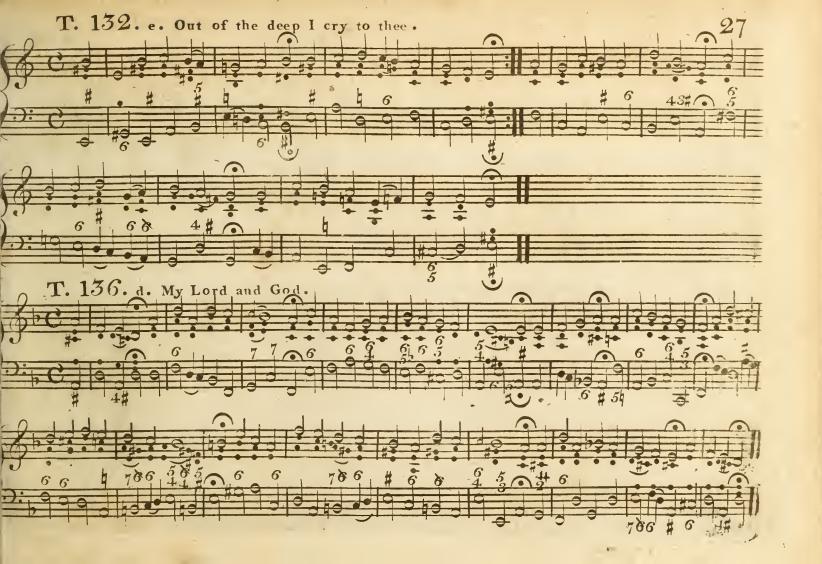


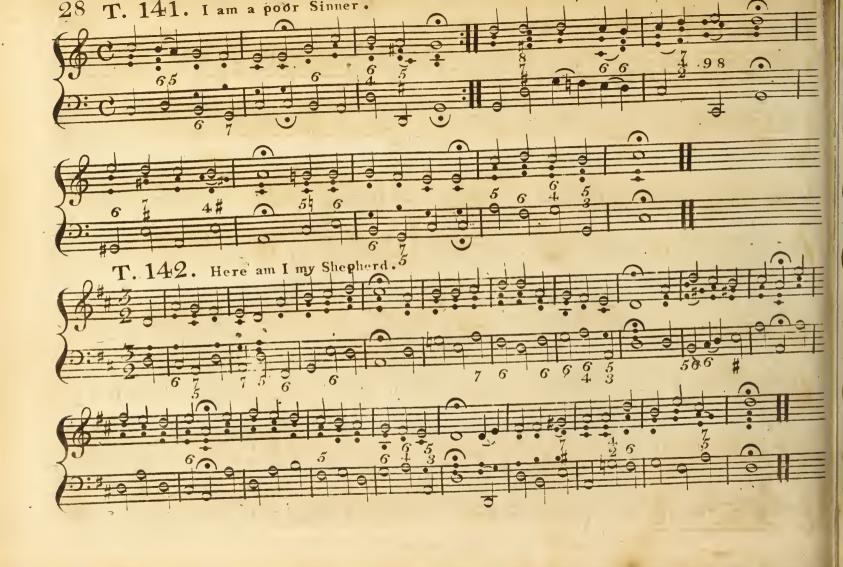


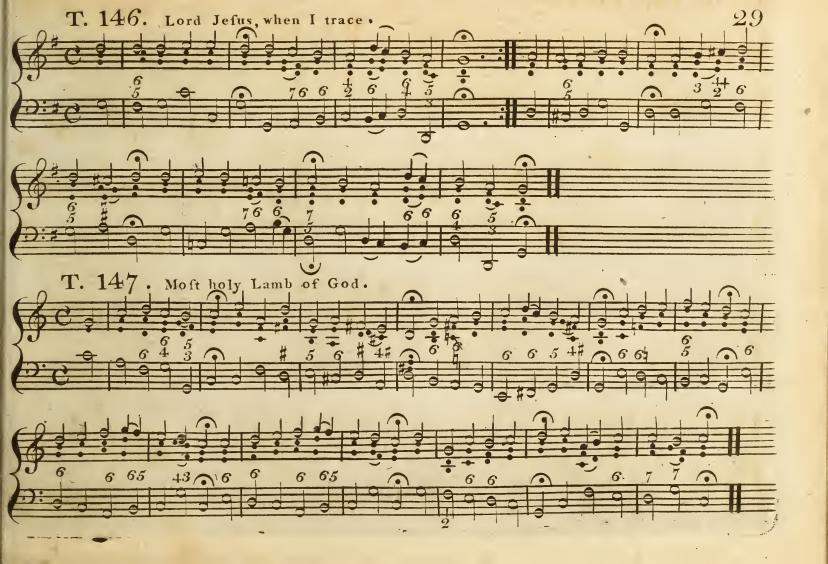


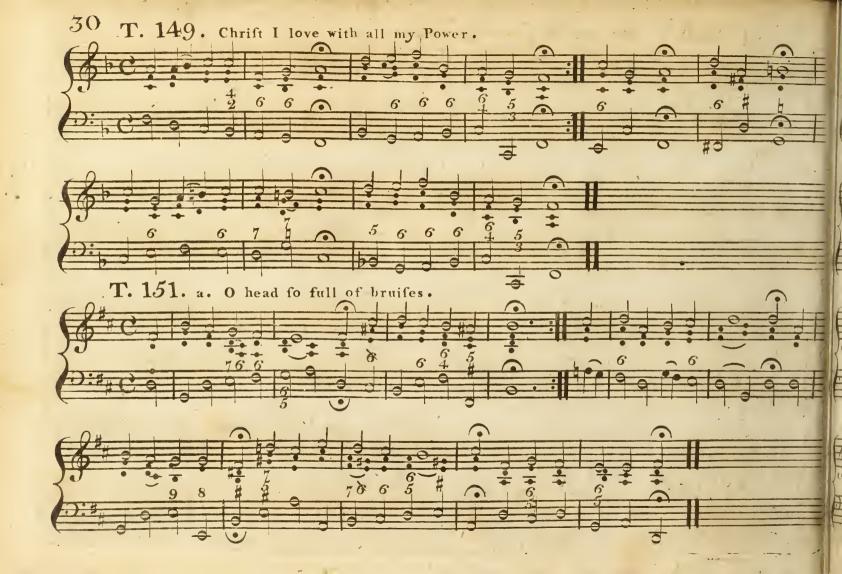


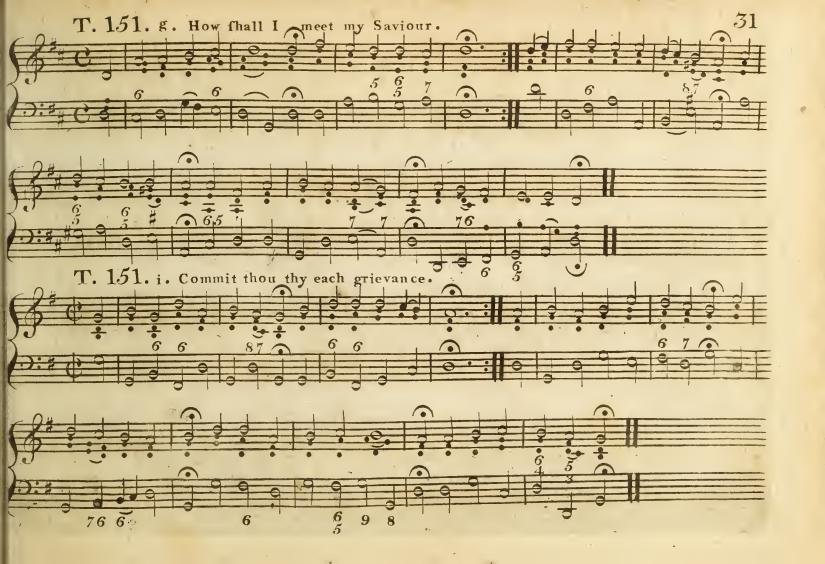


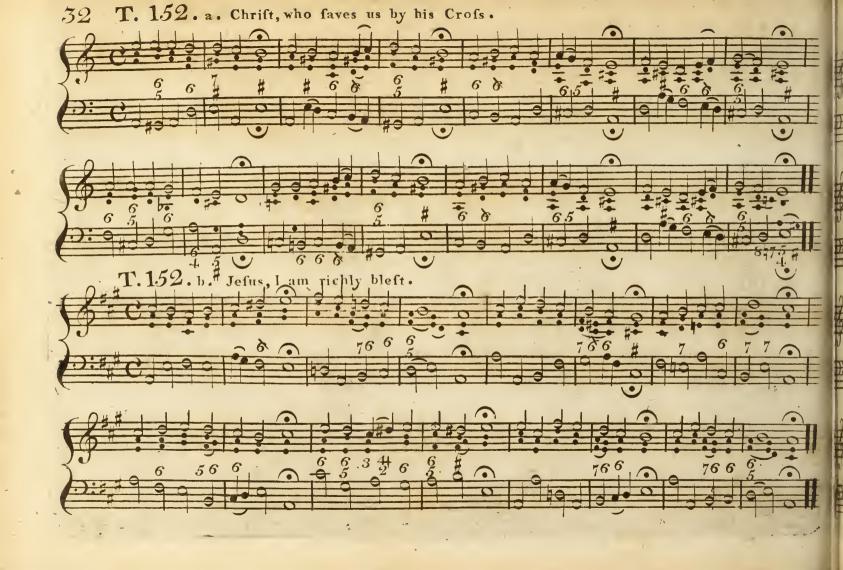


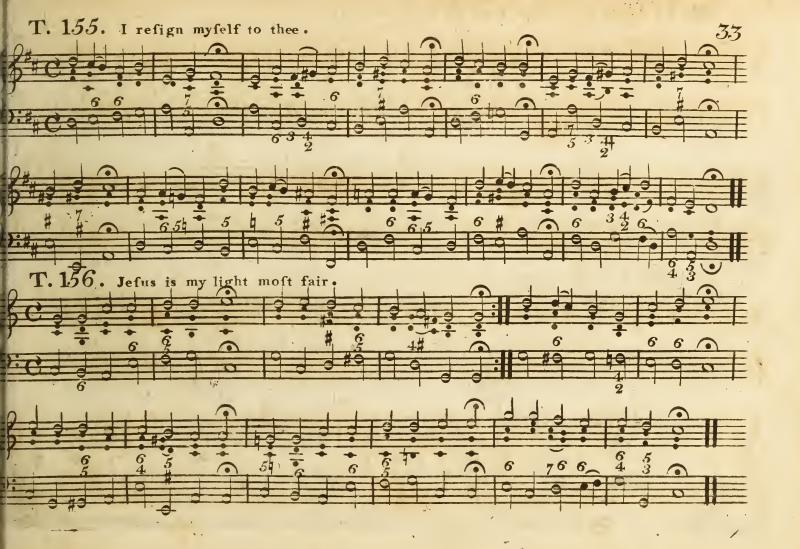


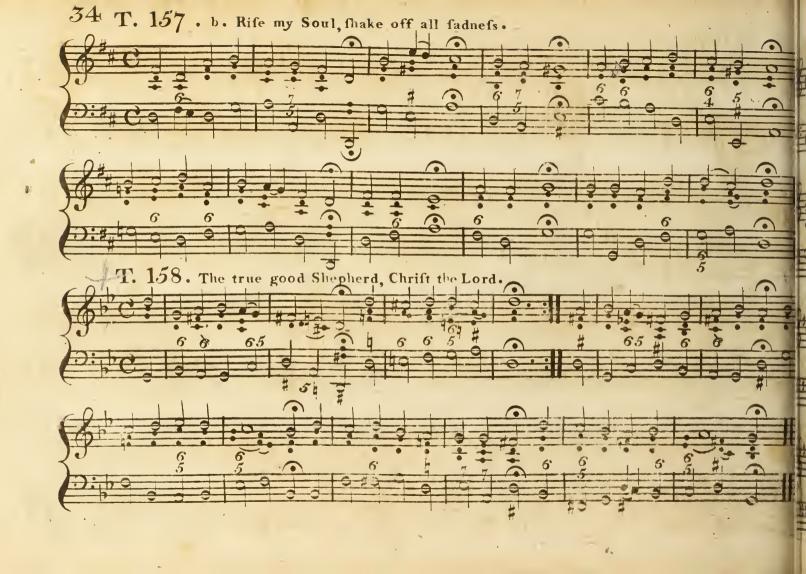


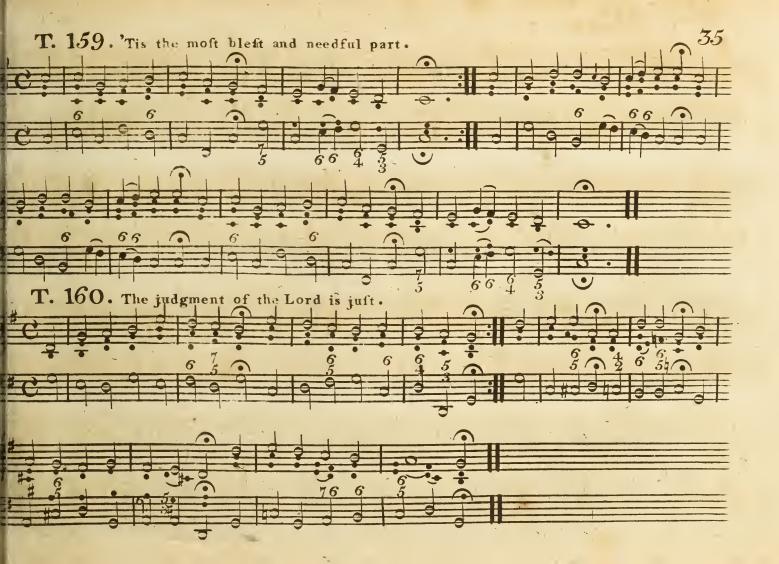




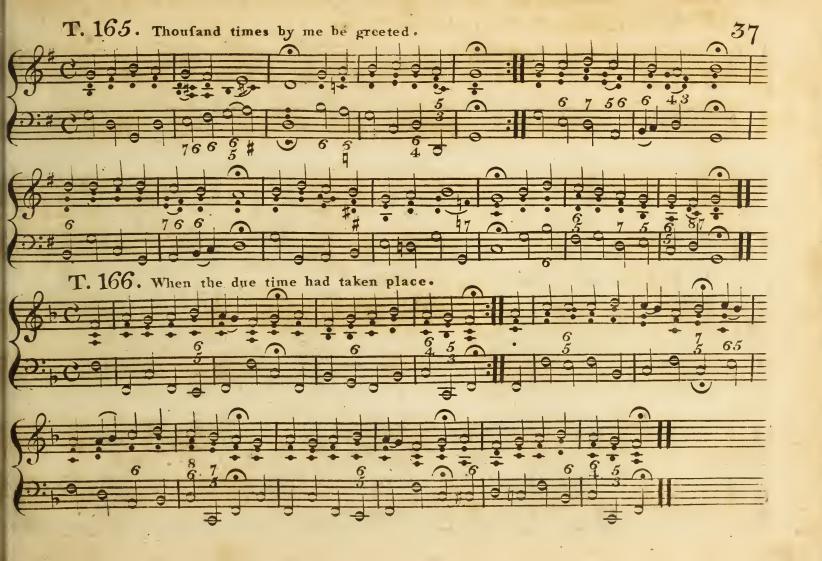


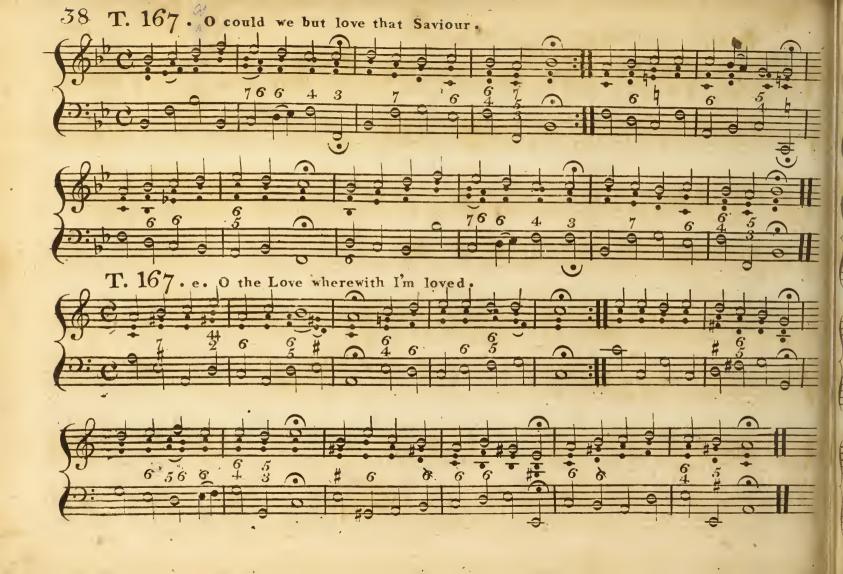






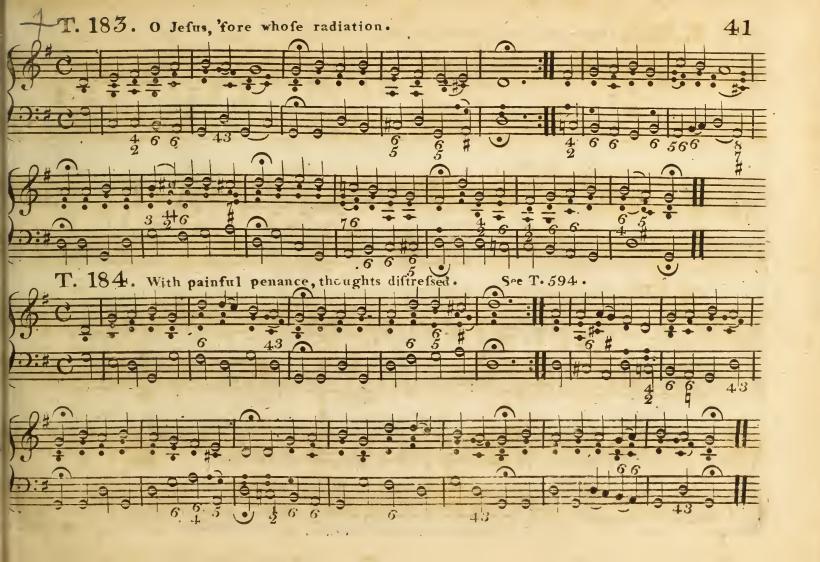




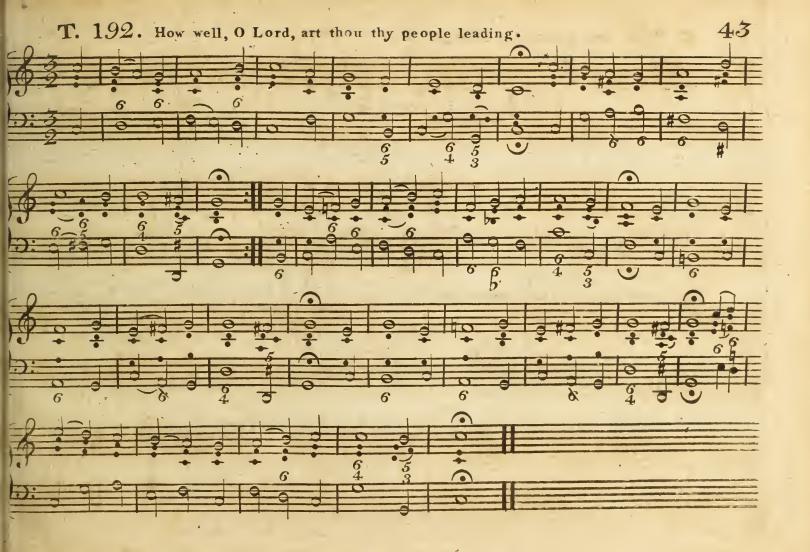








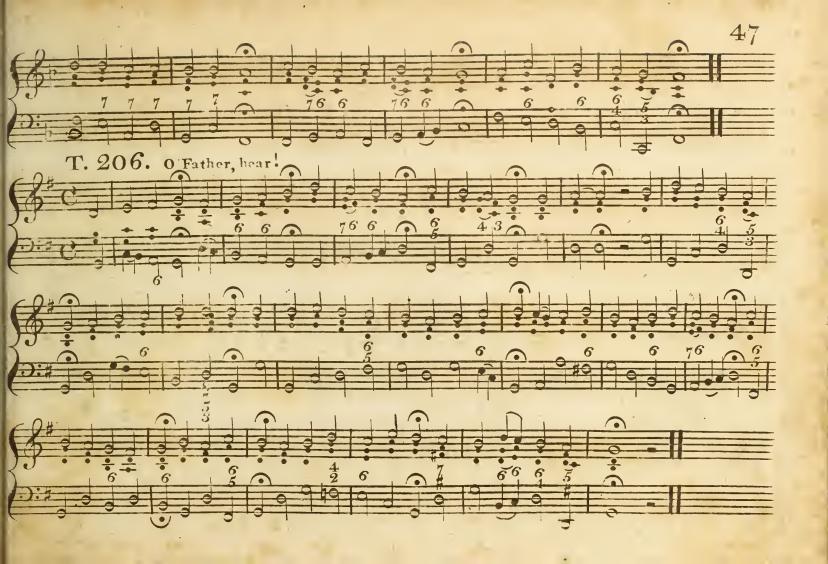


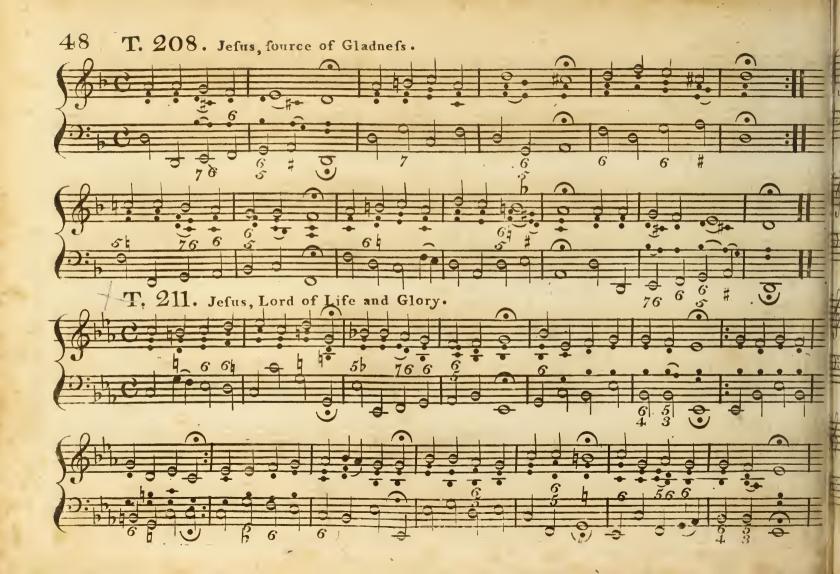




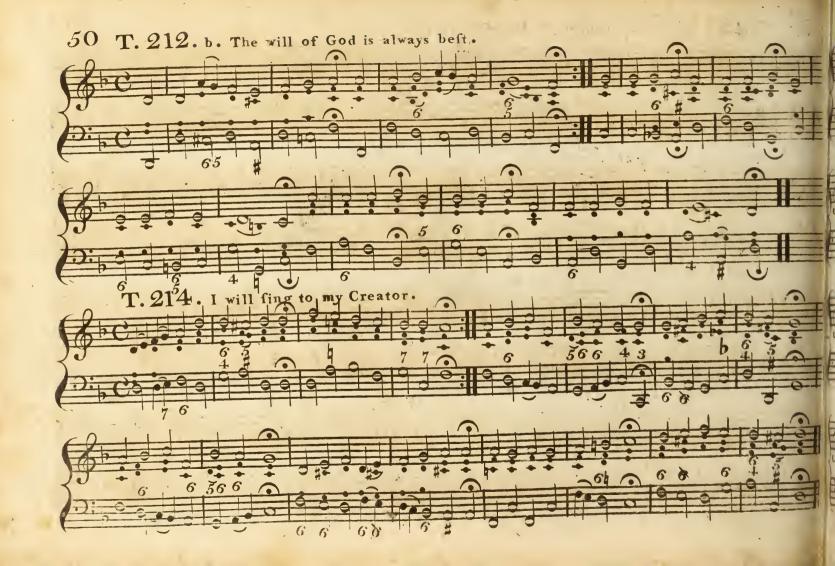




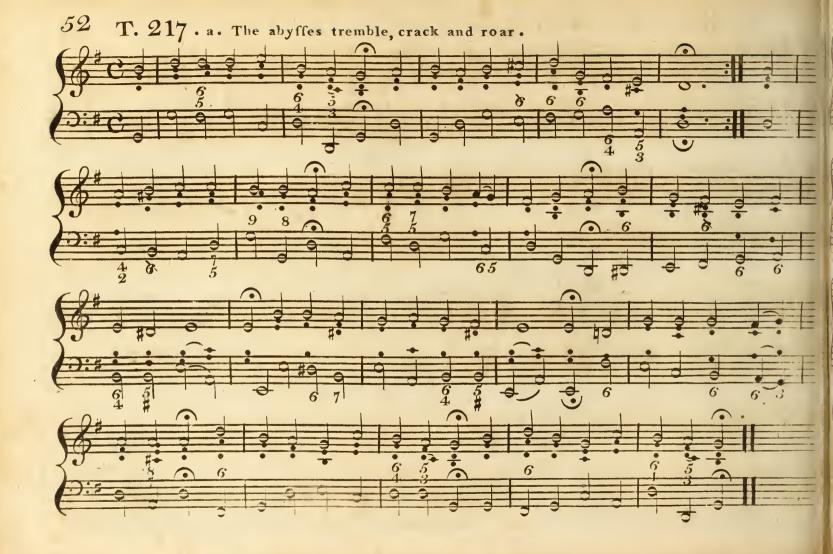


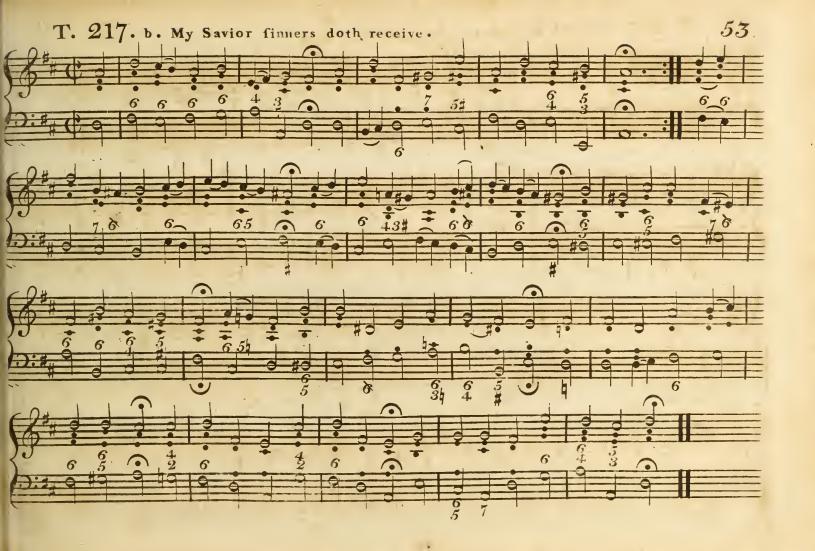


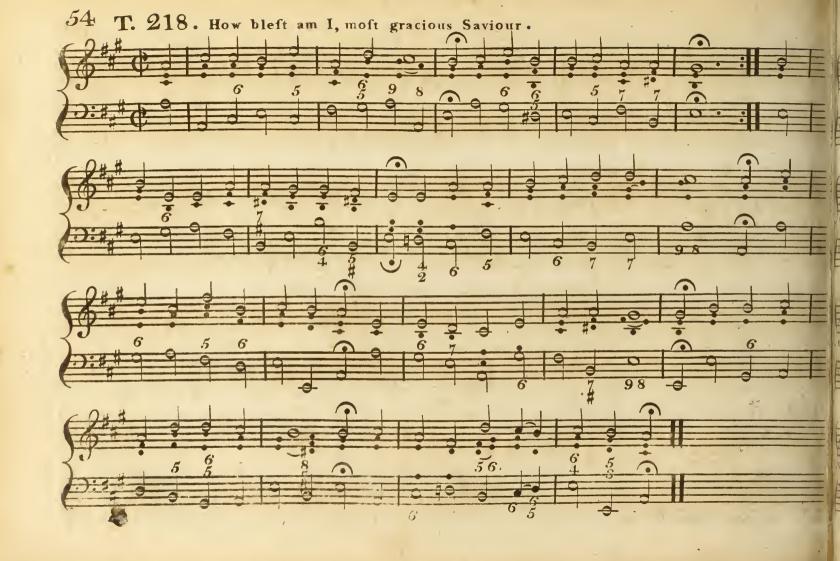


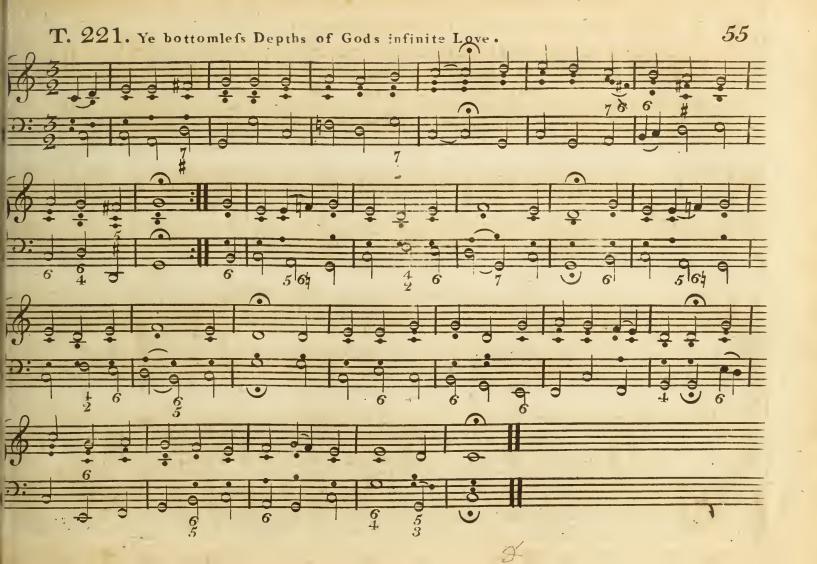


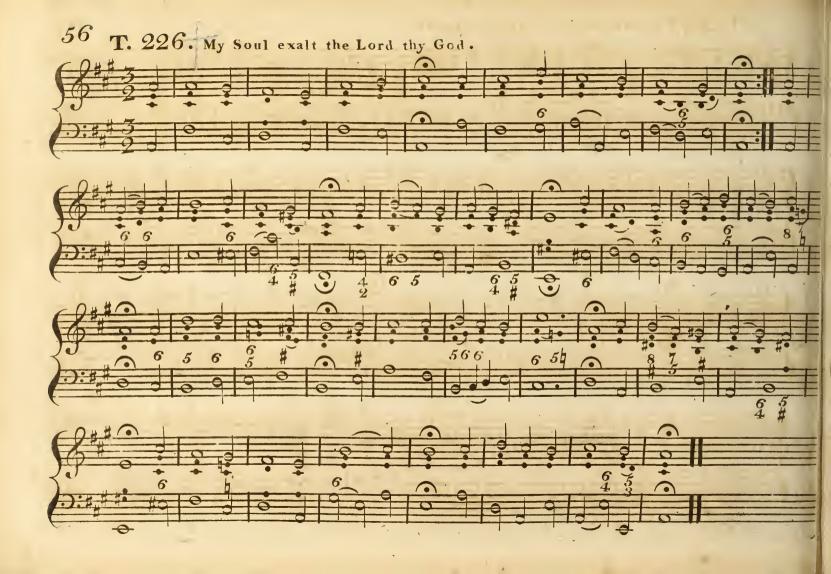


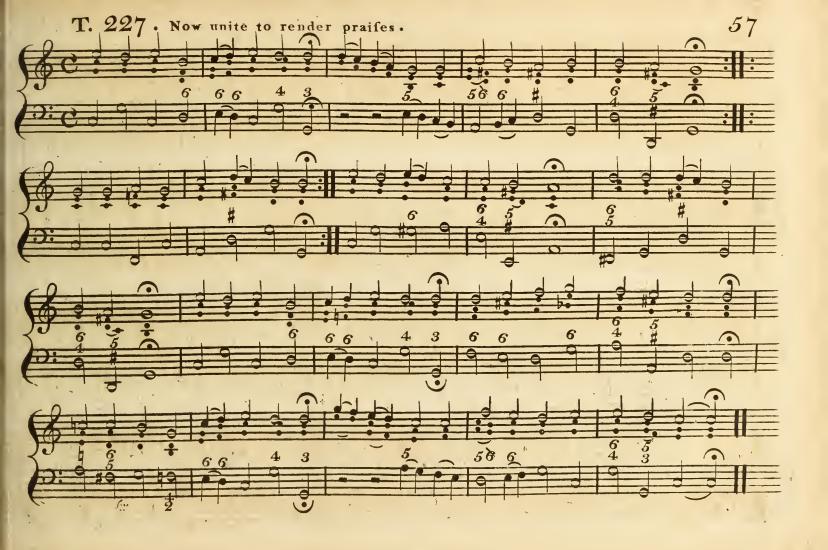


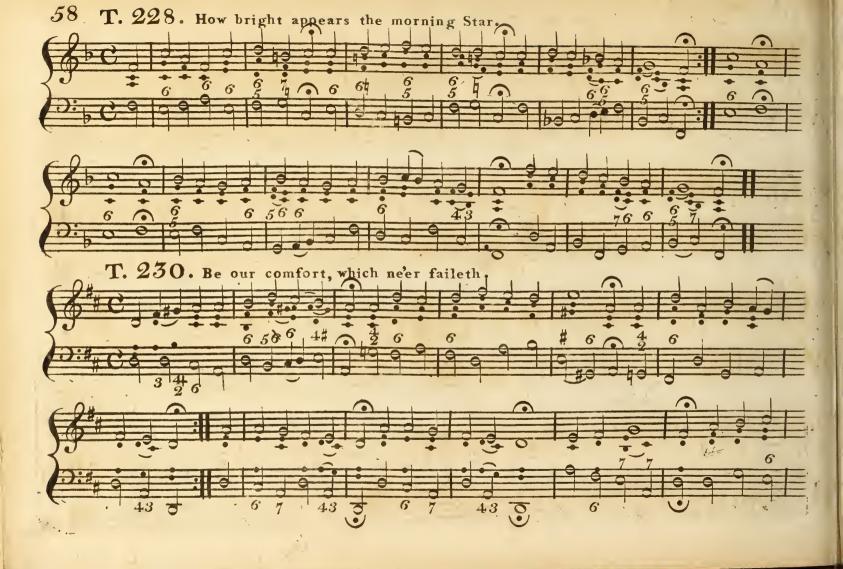


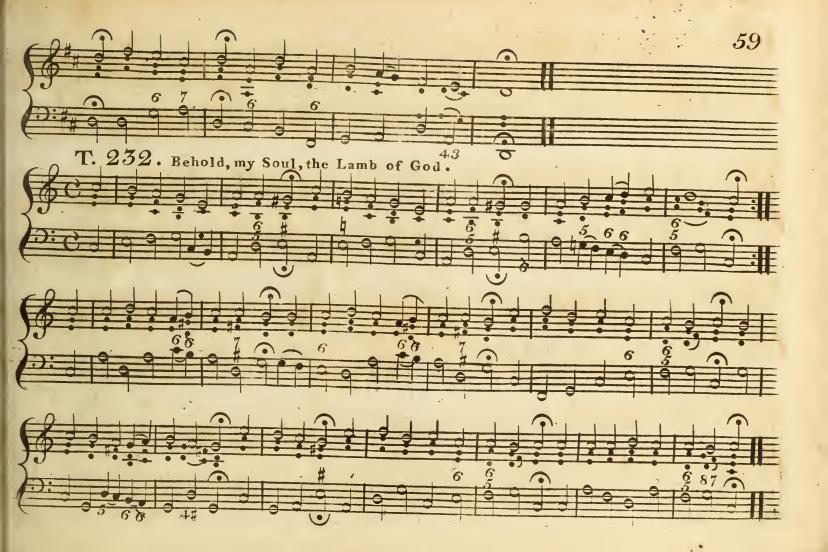








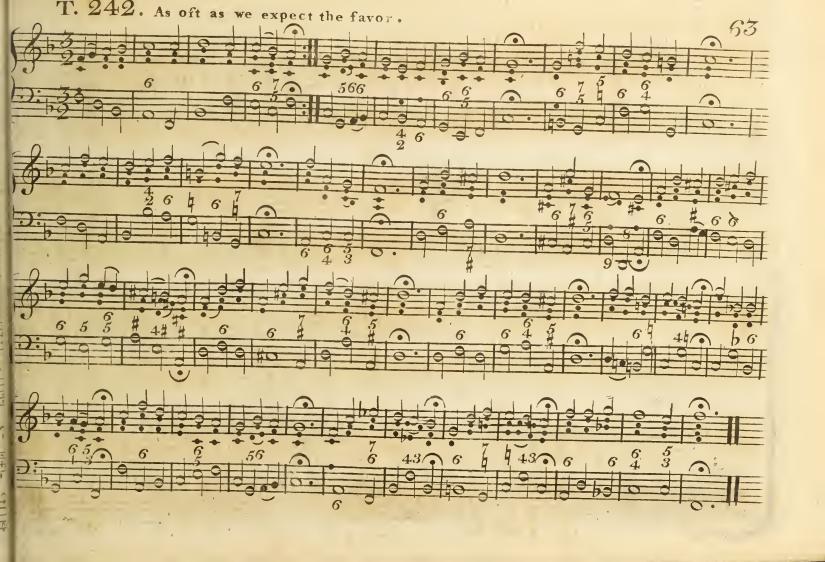


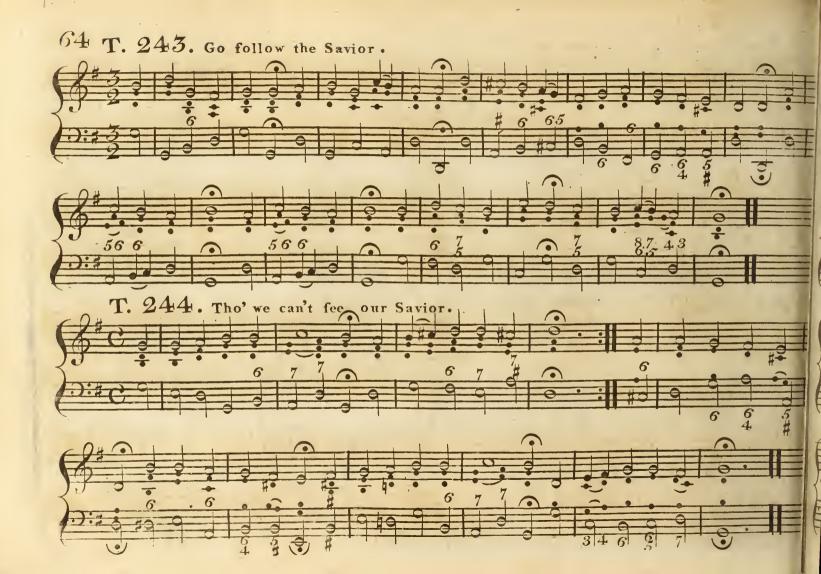




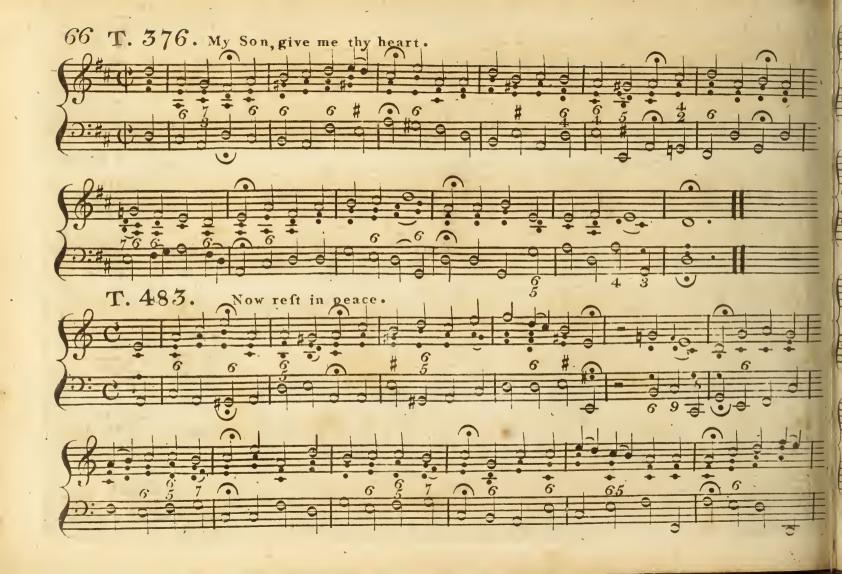


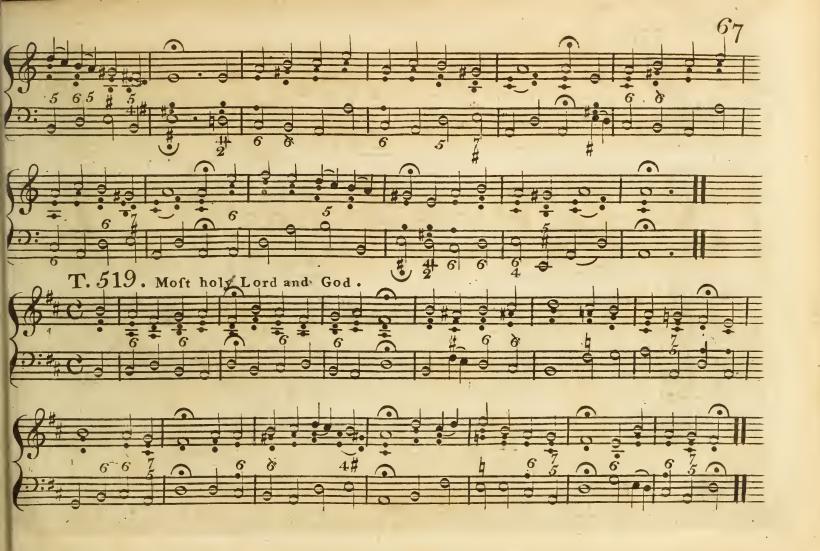


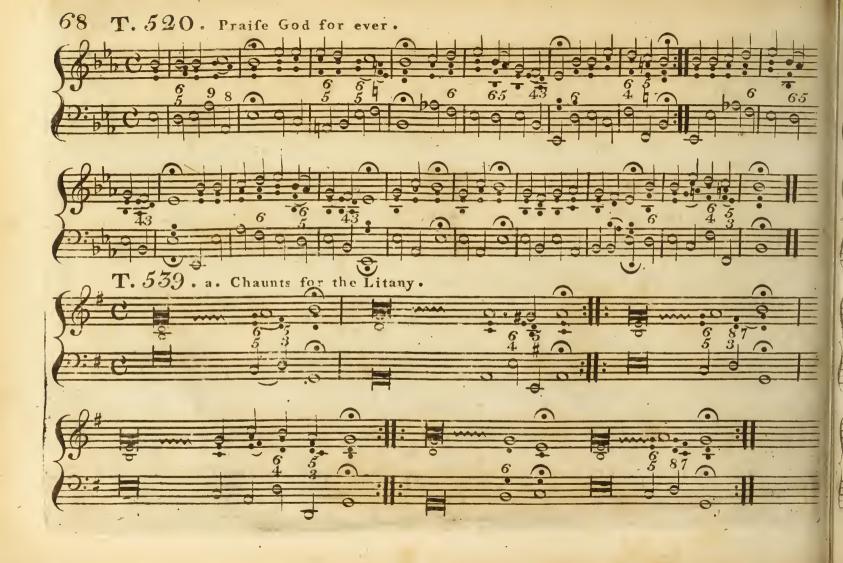




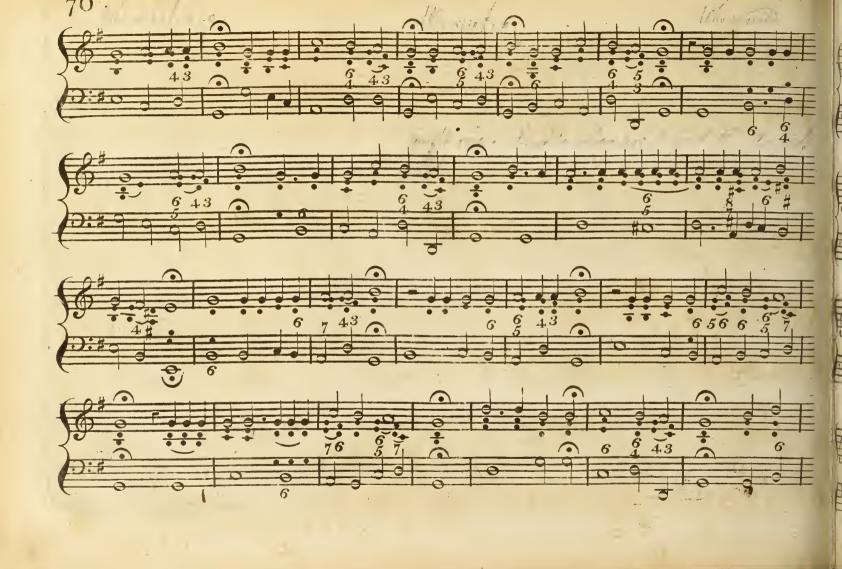


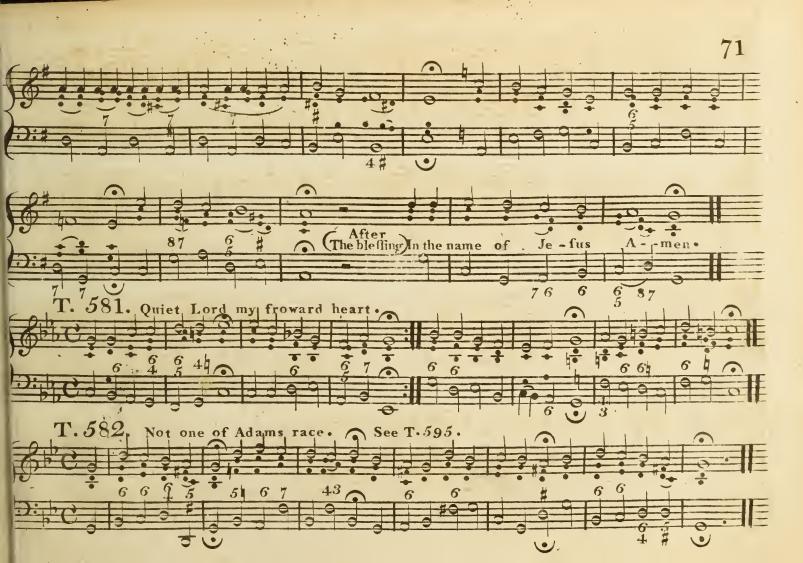








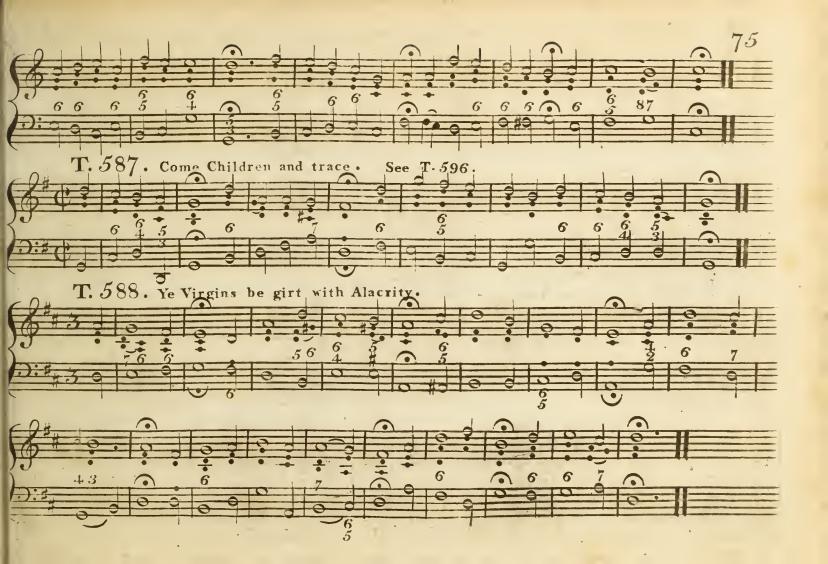




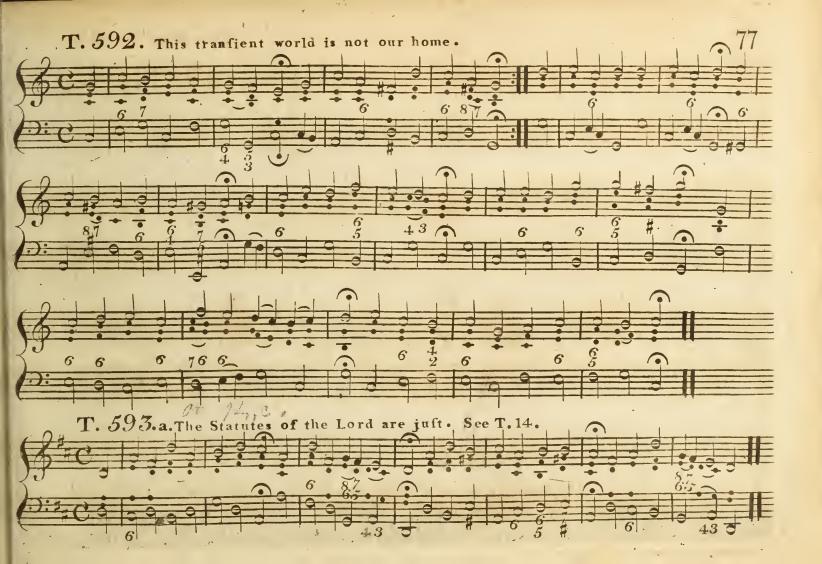




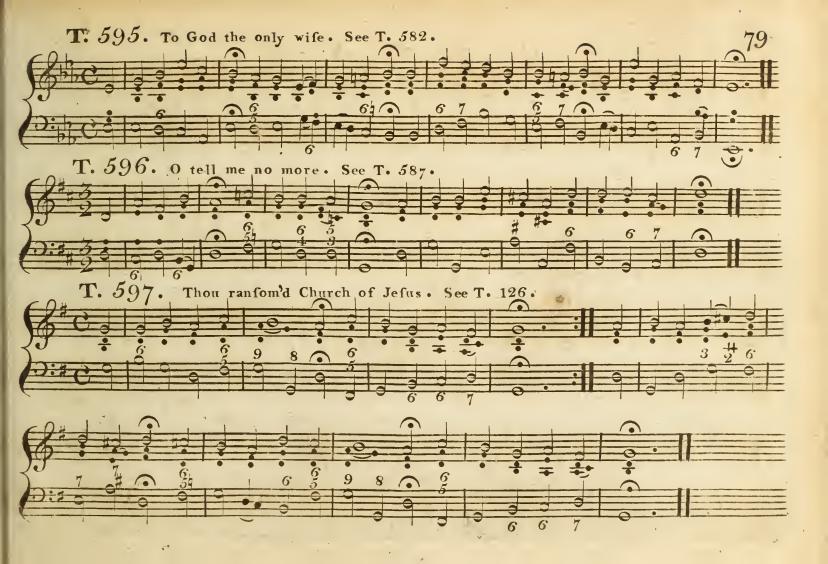


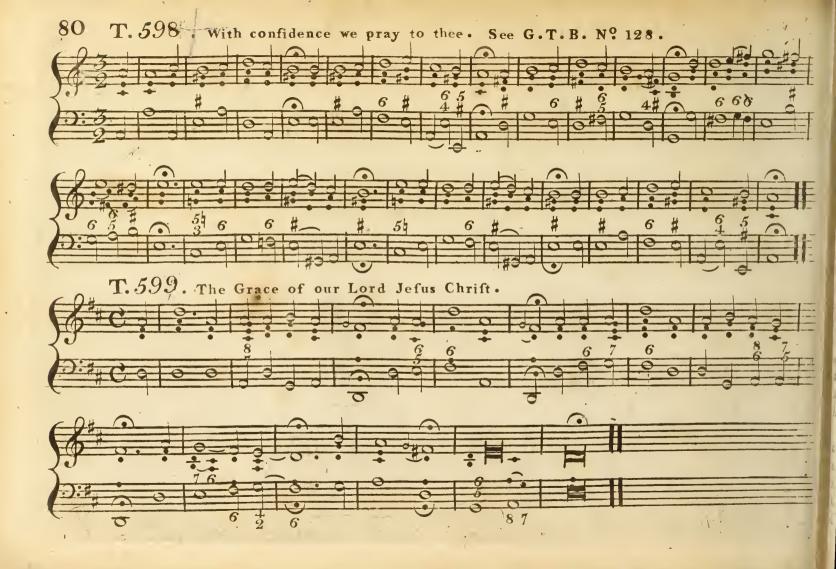












## I N D E X I.

The Capital Letters affixed to the Numbers, refer to Index II. in which the Title of any Tune may be easily found, by examining the Column of Numbers under the same Capital Letter.

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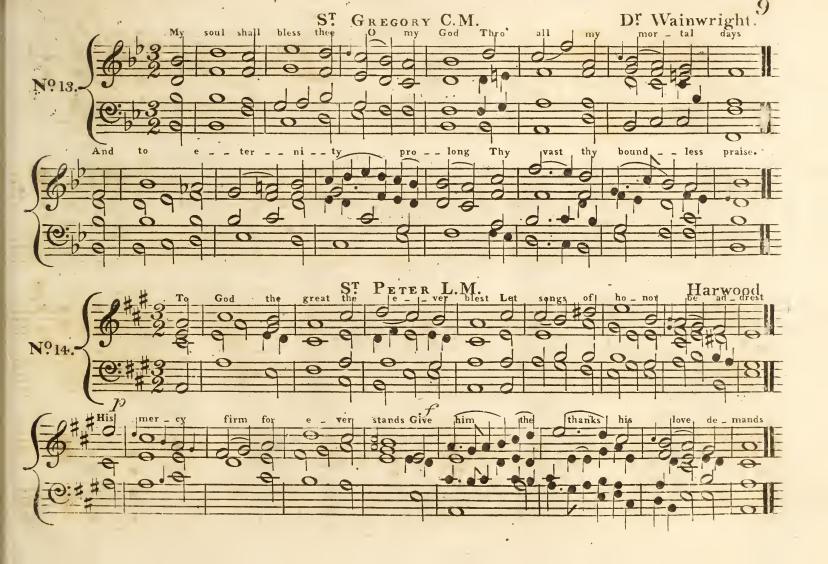








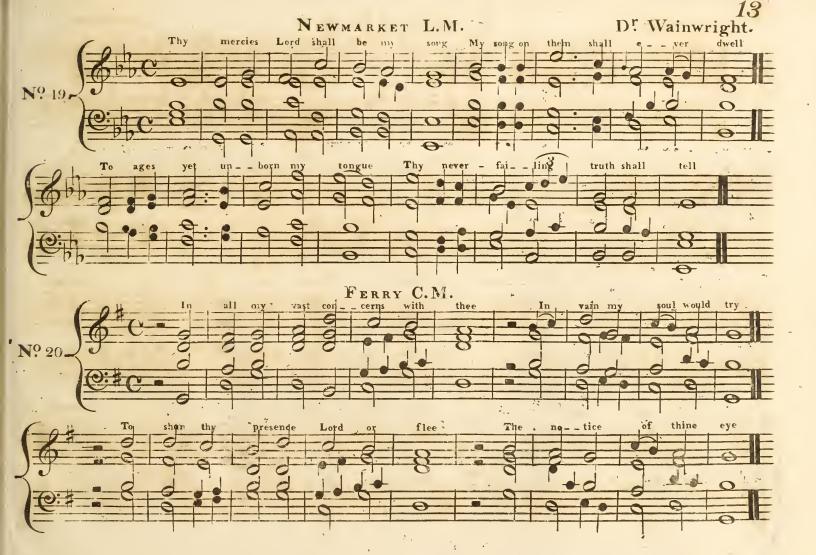
































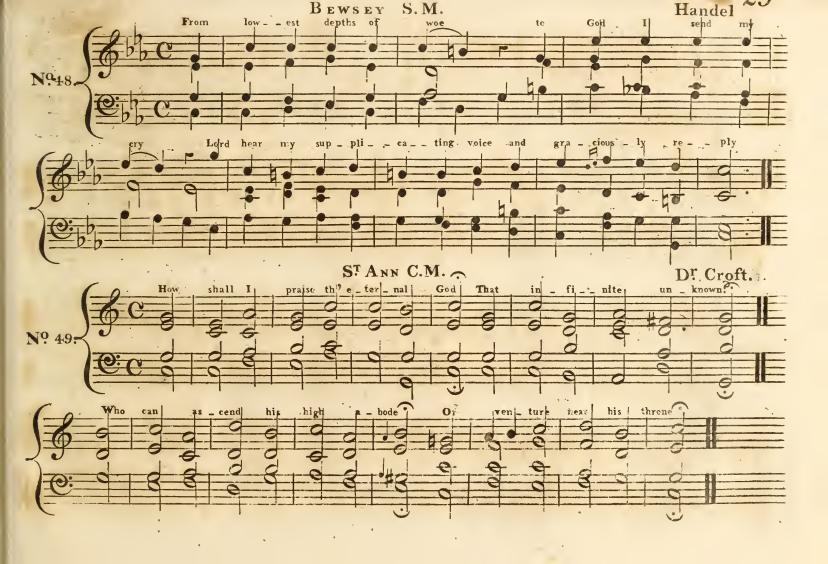




































































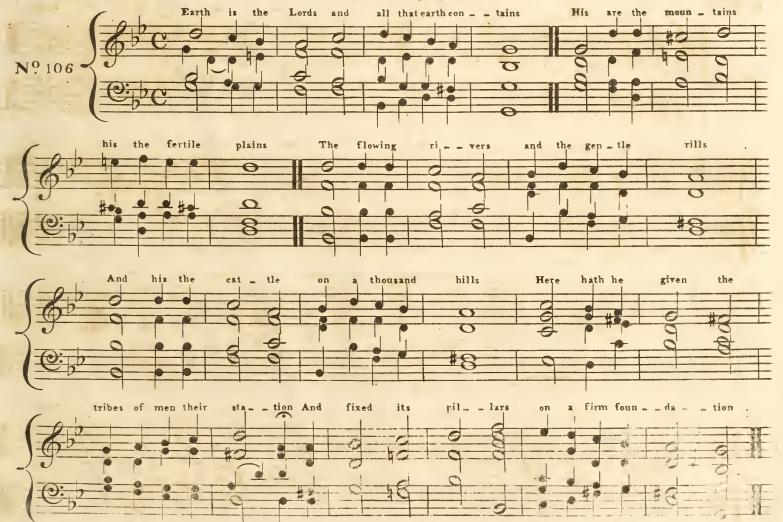






























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